



## Journey to the Falls Student Activity: Art

### Part 3- The Art of Lumbering

#### Log Marks








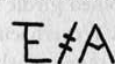




One of the State of Minnesota's more unusual records is a collection of record books in which more than 20,000 log marks are recorded. Log marks were a way to identify the logs that were floated down the river from the forests in northern Minnesota to the sawmills in Minneapolis and other cities. They are like western cattle brands which many people are familiar with.

After the trees were cut down, the logs were marked on both ends as well as on the bark. Loggers swung a special hammer with a long handle, similar to an ax, marking each log multiple times. When the loggers marked trees on cold mornings, "the clear, sharp ring of the hammer could be heard for long distances."

Once the logs were marked and began their journey down the river, they were sorted into booms filled with thousands and thousands of logs belonging to different owners. The booms could be over 4 miles long!

#### Student Activity

Look at the marks below. The marks are a combination of letters and symbols. Design your own logging mark using letters or symbols that will help the "river pigs," the people who sort the logs, know which logs are yours.

DAVID TOZER  Pitchfork	E. W. BACKUS  B scalp A	W. D. WASHBURN  C. double Y reversed H
CHAS. BRYENTON  Reel	JONATHAN CHASE  Cross cross on two girdles cross	ERASTUS BYERS  Two double darts
THOMAS CARMICHAEL  Snowshoe	J. S. PILLSBURY & CO.  TEL combined girdle twenty A	J. B. BASSETT & CO.  Roof Y girdle twenty
MCFARLAND & PICKETT  New hat	T. B. WALKER  TWB combined	FARNHAM & LOVEJOY  F thirty combined H
END MARKS	BARK MARKS	END MARKS

Draw your log mark in the box.  
Remember that a simple design is easier to read.



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#### Teacher Note:

The above information was taken from an article written by Elizabeth M. Bachman for Minnesota History magazine, Summer 1945 (Volume 26, No. 2, pages 126-137) titled Minnesota Log Marks. It is available on-line at:

<http://www.mnhs.org/market/mhspress/MinnesotaHistory/FeaturedArticles/2602126-137/index.htm>

#### Activity Extensions:

- After creating a log mark, have the class make a record book or poster showing everyone's log mark.
- How do we track items today? How do we know what companies make an item? Students will make a poster showing how we track the origin of items today- UPC codes, sticky labels on fruits and vegetables, clothing labels, brand logos, license plates, and serial numbers are just a few of the ways that come to mind.
- Simulate the sorting action that took place on the river by creating "logs" out of pieces of paper (cut cardstock into strips approx. 1" x 5"). Create three or four different log marks and draw each mark on 10-20 "logs." You will also need 4 or 5 bins; one to serve as the "river" and one for each log mark. Label the bins appropriately. Divide the students into three or four relay teams. Place all the "logs" into a bin which will serve as the river. Students will take one log at a time and sort it into that log's "boom" (another bin). Continue until all the logs are sorted in a basic relay race fashion. Sort safely!
- Make a log mark stamp by carving a soft vegetable such as a potato or by cutting out pieces of foam in the shape of the log mark design. Remember the design will need to be a mirror image when carved into the potato or cut out of foam. If cutting the design out of foam, glue it to a hard surface to create the stamp.

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